[19th September 1958

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) On enquiry, it was found that the workers have voluntarily settled their accounts with the management after receiving notice, pay, retrenchment compensation, etc. The position was also explained to the workers by the Labour Officer, Madurai, on 5th August 1958.

Special Armed Police

MR. SPEAKER : I am now going to introduce an innovation. In Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition does not put questions normally. He is given the special privilege of putting what is called private short notice questions. I asked the Leader of the Opposition if he would like such a procedure being followed here also and he has agreed to it. The Hon. Minister has also agreed to the procedure. I shall now call the first question under this category.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : It has not been circulated.

MR. SPEAKER : Sri V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliyar will read it himself.

* *Private Notice Question* 1.—SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact, that the Special Armed Police is still kept in Ramanathapuram area;

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact, that the Special Armed Police is still committing harassment and striking terror in the mind of the people of that locality?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Special Armed Police is still stationed in the disturbed taluks of East Ramanathapuram district to maintain Law and Order and to serve regular beats to patrol the area in order to prevent any intimidation or overt act by either party and to infuse confidence in the public.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : In view of the fact that there is complete peace in those areas, is there any necessity to continue these armed forces there?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am glad to admit that the situation has considerably improved. But still the cases have not been disposed off and therefore the Government consider that some of the arrangements have still to be continued.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions are over.